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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
DISTRIBUTING AND VIEWING
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS**

(56) **References Cited**

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Executive Summary—Network, Screen and Page: The Future of Reading in a Digital Age, prepared by INTERQUEST and the University of Virginia, published by The Electronic Document Systems Foundation, Copyright 1997.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to systems and methods for distributing and viewing electronic documents. In one embodiment, the invention provides a system for distributing electronic versions of printed documents comprising a memory device and a distribution system. The memory device is in operable communication with a content provider and stores at least one electronic document file that is based at least in part on a source electronic document provided by the content provider, wherein the source electronic document is an electronic version of a printed document. The distribution system is in operable communication with the memory device and is programmed for responding to requests from a client for delivery of an electronic document file, retrieving a copy of the requested electronic document file from the memory device, assigning at least one right to the copy of the electronic document file, the right defining the scope of at least one action capable of being performed on at least a portion of the copy of the electronic document file, encrypting the copy of the electronic document file with a key based at least in part on the identity of the client and on the at least one right, and providing the copy of the electronic document file, with the associated key, to the client.

31 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets

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USPC 726/27; 713/153; 713/155

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See application file for complete search history.

